(14th Lok Sabha) in pursuance of Director 32 of the hon. Chairman, Rajya Sabha *vide* Rajya Sabha Bulletin, Part II dated 28th September 2004.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the one-hundred seventy-ninth and two hundred-first report of the department-related Parliamentary StandingCommittee on Industry

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBUCENTERPRISES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): Sir, I beg to lay a Statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the One Hundred Seventy-ninth and Two Hundred-first Reports of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the fourteenth report of department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MURLI DEORA): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas. This may please be considered as read.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the fifty-fifth report of department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance.

THE MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRl PREM CHAND GUPTA): Sir, I beg to lay a statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Fifty-fifth Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance, Demands for Grants 2007-08, pertaining to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the twenty-seventh report of department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): Sir, I beg to lay a Statement regarding status of implementation of recommendations contained in the Twenty-seventh Report of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Railways.

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MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

RIGHT OF THE HOUSE TO BE KEPT INFORMED ON THE OUTCOME OF OFICIAL VISITS BY MINISTERS OF THE UNION CABINET TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I am clearly the beneficiary of a rather arbitrary and ad hoc maimer of functioning of this 'non-Government', because in the morning we were informed that the discussion on the Nuclear Agreement shall start at 12 o'clock. When I come here, I am told that it is at 2 o'clock, because it is not convenient for the Prime Minister to be present here. Be that as it may, Sir, the submission that 1 wish to make is substantial. It is of significance to the entire Parliament and it does really illustrate once again how casually and indifferently the Parliament is being treated by the Treasury Benches. I refer. Sir, to an established convention that whenever the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. External Affairs Minister undertakes a visit abroad, to any other country, that visit is not for pleasure, it is not a jaunt that is undertaken; though

pleasure might well be a component of it. Thereafter, they are bound by their duty to come and report to Parliament as to what they did.... It is better Sir, if the consultation is deferred till I have done. Sir I was submitting that it is invariably mandatory upon the Government to report to Parliament what they did when they undertook the visit abroad ..... Sir, I would like to submit that unless it is a matter of life and death urgency, officials would please observe the elementary courtesy of not holding personal consultations with you or the Chair, when any hon. Member is on his legs. As I was submitting, Sir, for the third time that whenever the Prime Minister or the Minister of External Affairs undertakes such visits, it is mandatory... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BALWANT ALIAS BAL APTE (Maharashtra): This is an affront to the House.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no, he did not mean it.

SHRI BALWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Time and again, you are mentioning.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज :जो सिलसिला मार्शल से शुरू हुआ, वह सेक्रेटरी जनरल तक पहुंच गया।...(**व्यवधान**)... इन सब को 5 मिनट के लिए रूकवा दीजिए।

श्री उपसभापति2 : मैंने बता दिया हैं।

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Sir, it is rather like a game of Ludo where you throw wrong and go back to start or miss your turn and so on. I don't want to keep on repeating what I have said. But I will repeat the requirement of the Government to inform the Parliament of the visits that they undertake to foreign countries.

Sir, in recent months, the honourable the Prime Minister, as also the hon. the External Affairs Minister, were on visits, of which we are aware, have been undertaken to various countries. The Prime Minister yet again breached a convention which has been the standard observed for very long, and I do not remember. Sir, when it has been breached and I do recollect very well reading that the first Prime Minister, hon. Shri Jawaharlal Nehru observed the requirement of attending the Parliament and forsaking foreign meetings whenever the Parliament was in Session. I must say this with great regret that the hon. the Prime Minister absented himself in possibly the most crucial week of this Session, for almost a week, when the total session is only for three weeks. I am informed — I do not know whether he actually went or did not go; it is only newspaper reports that inform me — that he went to Russia. It was rather a sudden visit; a 28 hours turn-around visit to Russia. It is quite a record for any Indian Prime Minister. Thereafter he came, perhaps, to change his clothing, and went to Singapore. Perhaps, he went there directly; I do not know. He flew to Kampala. There is a requirement for us to know of all these events. I say it with great deal of concern, Mr. Deputy Chairman, that our neighbourhood is as troubled, and in as great a state of disorder, as I do not recollect when it last was. I do not wish to cite the names of countries; whether it is Bangladesh or Nepal, it is in a state of total disgrace. So are the events that have happened in Pakistan. We recently had a very significant event in Annapolis. Now, what was it? Was it a conference for peace or was it a conference to prepare us for yet another conflict? The House has a right to know, Sir. We hear reports of the hon. the Defence Minister, a dear and esteemed friend of long standing of mine, who goes to Nathu La and speaks in eulogistic lerms of the People's Republic of China's infrastructure developments. The leader of the Congress Party, indeed, undertakes a visit to China and lauds the systems of China. I do hope. Sir, that those systems do not include that we will now start following the methods of governance also of China. It is very important that we know; we cannot know unless the

Prime Minister comes and reports here and gives an opportunity to the House to discuss these issues. The Parliament is being treated most arbitrarily and casually. A debate that was to be started at 12, has been shifted to 2; a Bill that is not listed is suddenly taken up. Please, Sir, don't diminish all institutions; don't diminish the Parliament. That is the submission I wish to make.

SHRI B.J. PANDA (Orissa): I had given a notice.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. Let the Zero Hour be over. Let me complete the admitted business.

कार्मिक, लोक शिकायत और पेंशन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश पचौरी) : माननीय उपसभापति महोदय, विपक्ष के नेता श्री जसवन्त सिंह जी हमारे लिए बहुत आदरणीय भी हैं और उनसे हमें बहुत कुछ सीखने की जरूरत है, क्योंकि वे अनुभवी भी हैं। उन्होंने संसद की सुव्यवस्थापित परम्परा का उल्लेख किया और हमें यह भी स्मरण कराया कि जब भी कोई मंत्री विदेश जाते हैं तो उन्हें अनिवार्य रूप से, उन्होंने शब्द इस्तेमाल किया कि हमेशा और अनिवार्य रूप से इस सदन को अवगत कराना चाहिए कि विदेश में क्या हुआ। मैं उनके शब्द को बहुत गौर से सुन रहा था। मुझे याद नहीं आ रहा, इसीलिए मैंने प्रारम्भ में यह वाक्य कहा कि वे बहुत अनुभवी हैं, हमारे लिए आदरणीय भी हैं, और हमें उनसे बहुत कुछ सीखना भी हैं। मुझे याद आ रहा है कि 29 मार्च से 6 अप्रैल, 2002 के बीच स्वयं आदरणीय जसवन्त सिंह जी ने चीन, कोरिया, थाईलैंड और म्यानमार की यात्रा के बाद सदन को अवगत कराया कि वहां क्या चर्चा हुई? मैं इस पर कोई कटाक्ष नहीं कर रहा हूं, केवल अपनी जानकारी के लिए पूछ रहा हूं, क्योंकि उन्होनें कहा कि यह अनिवार्य भी हैं और हमेशा होता आया है और यह सदन की परंपरा हैं। जब सदन की पंरपरा का हम ज़िक करते हैं, तो हम रूल्स का भी ज़िक्र करते हैं। जो रूल हैं-Procedure& Conduct of Business का Rule 251, उसमें यह कहा गया है कि चेयमैन की सहमति से जो संबंधित मंत्री हैं, वे चाहें तो वक्तव्य दें। मैं इससे आगे बढ़कर यह कहना चाहता हूं कि अपेक्षानुसार जब भी कोई मंत्री विदेश में जाएं,Public importance या देश के हित के किसी issue पर चर्चा करें तो अपेक्षानुसार यह होना चाहिए कि वे देश को अवगत कराएं, लेकिन सवाल इस बात का उठता है कि हमारे पास बहुत सारी parliamentary devices हैं-question के रूप में कई बार इसकी जानकारी दी जाती हैं, कई बार Calling Attention के रूप में जानकारी दी जाती हैं, कई बार सुओ मोटो स्टेटमेंट के रूप में जानकारी दी जाती हैं, जैसे मलेशिया का मामला आया, वैसा ही मामला स्वयं जसवन्त सिंह जी के समय में आया था, Question No.6411 के रूप में यह मामला आया था, तो जब यह प्रश्न उठा था, तब उन्होंने सदन में जानकारी दी थी। फिर भी मैं आपके माध्यम से सदन को अवगत कराना चाहता हूं कि यदि कोई ऐसे विषय हैं, जिनके संबंध में सदन को जानकारी देना जरूरी हैं, तो इस सरकार को वह जानकारी देने में कोई हिचकिचाहट नहीं हैं। यदि यह बात उठे कि इस सदन को अवगत कराया जाना चाहिए, तो हम सदन को उससे अवगत कराने में किसी भी प्रकार से नहीं हिचेंगे। प्रधान मंत्री जी के संबंध में यह बात आई कि प्रधान मंत्री जी के लिए यह असुविधाजनक स्थिति हो गई हैं, तो ऐसी कोई बात नहीं हैं, international commitments रहते हैं, सदन की जो तिथि तय होती हैं, ये तिथियां उससे पहले से तय की हुई रहती हैं, इसलिए उनकी पूर्ति के लिए प्रधान मंत्री जी को जाना होता हैं। फिर भी उससे संबंधित कोई जानकारी यदि यह सदन लेना चाहता हैं, तो हमें वह जानकारी सदन में देने में कोई आपत्ति नहीं हैं।

उपसभापति जी, मैं आखिरी बात कहकर अपनी बात समाप्त करूंगा कि हमारे यहां एक कहावत हैं कि- "पर उपदेश dqky बहुतेरे" मेहरबानी करके केवल उपदेश देने का काम न हों, कुछ अपने आप भी चरितार्थ किया जाए, तो मैं समझता हूं कि ज्यादा अच्छा होगा।

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया (झारखंड) : उपसभापति जी, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर हैं।

श्री उपसभापति : क्या प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर हैं?

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : उपसभापति जी, मंत्री महोदय ने, जैसी उनकी आदत हैं, जब कोई भी बात आती हैं, तो वे पुरानी चीजें उखाड़कर ले आते हैं। अगर कोई पुरानी गलती हुई हैं, तो उसमें सुधार लाने की कोशिश होनी चाहिए...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : आपने जो गलती की, उसमें हम सुधार कर रहे हैं...(**व्यवधान**)... यदि आप डिबेट चाहतें हैं, तो 2002 से आज तक जितनी यात्राएं हुई हैं और जितनी यात्राएं इनके कार्यकाल में हुई हैं, उनकी लिस्ट मैं सदन के पटल पर रख देता हूं और उस समय क्या हुआ, यह मैं बता देता हूं...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : उपसभापति जी, मेरा एक प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर हैं।

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : किस रूलं के तहत?

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : उपसभापति जी, मेरा प्वाइंट ऑफ ऑर्डर रूल 251 के अंतर्गत हैं। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि रूल 251 के तहत "A statement may be made by a Minister on a matter of public importance with the Chairman." यह इन्होंने खुद quote किया है। इन्होंने चेयमैन पर बात डाल दी। मैं तो केवल ही जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या प्रधान मंत्री जी ने विदेश से आने के बाद चेयमैन को लिखकर दिया था कि मैं स्टेटमेंट देना चाहात हूं और चेयरमैन ने परमीशन नहीं दी?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is no point *of Order .(Interruptions)..* There is no point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please don't argue. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will not allow. ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no point of order. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Tapan Kumar Sen. .. *(Interruptions)..*

श्री सुरेश पचौरी : समझने की कोशिश करो अहलुवालिया जी ...(**व्यवधान**)... आप गलत जानकारी मत दीजिए...(**व्यवधान**)...

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, Mr. Ahluwalia is defending ...*(Interruptions).*

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : इस सदन में अपोजिशन ने जो बात उठाई, जो बात का जवाब चाहिए...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक हैं, जवाब दे दिया...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री एस. एस. अहलुवालिया : यह कौन सा तरीका हैं, Leader of the Opposition की बात जवाब सर्वदा Leader of the House की तरफ से दिया जाता है...(**व्यवधान**)...

श्री उपसभापति : यहां जो है वह गवर्नमेंट की तर से react करेंगे...(**व्यवधान**)...

There is no *point...(Interruptions).* The Government is confident to give the reply. Now, Shri Tapan Kumar Sen.

Strike by employees and officers of associate banks of SBI against their merger with SBI

SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN (West Bengal): I would like to draw the attention of the House to the strike being observed by 45,000 employees and officers of the associate banks of the State Bank of India against the unilateral move of merger of the associate banks with the State Bank of India. On this, the employees and officers association has long been airing their concerns to the Government, to the Finance Ministry and to the respective bank managements pertaining to their service conditions, pertaining to their anxiety over the closure of different branches of those banks consequent upon merger and consequent redundancy, and also the operational necessity of merger at all. I am not going to the issue of merger. There may be difference, but I want to draw the attention of the House and also the Government towards the fact that bulldozing the concerns of the employees, even for the